

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 24, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Trey Gooch
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Ronald Williams
Commissioner Bob Bullen, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Jeff Sandvig
Michele Willard
Julia Hill
Cara Jones
Britney Hall
Lisa Nolen
Don Odom
Senna Mosley
Keisha Hill
Kendra Reed
Becky Shelton

Chairman Bullen presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Jordan, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chairman Bullen presented the Health Department report for the use and benefit of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Williams moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to approve the Health Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

The Committee was provided the February 5, 2009 minutes of Community Care for its use and information. Following discussion,

"Commissioner J. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the Community Care report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Commissioner Phillips requested someone be in attendance at the next meeting to report on the current survey results.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Lisa Nolen presented the Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Don Odom and Jeff Sandvig presented the Board of Education report for the use and information of the Committee first presenting a budget amendment on a \$65,700 donation from the Jennings Jones Foundation to be used to build a stronger Virtual Enterprises International network in Tennessee by providing professional development opportunities to enable participating vocational teachers to develop expertise that will assist them in facilitating student learning. Funding also provides training in recruiting and working with business partners. The second budget amendment presented is for a \$25,000 donation from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation to fund the 2009 Rutherford County Reading Conference which is a three

day summer conference to provide training for 65 teachers in grades 6-8. Following discussion,

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve amendment of \$65,700 in funds received from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation for the Virtual Enterprise program and the related expenditures as presented and to amend \$25,000 in funds received from the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Foundation for the 2009 Rutherford County Reading Conference and related expenditures as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The next budget amendment presented reallocated \$3,250 of the approved 2008/09 State of Tennessee Adult Education grant – Staff Development funds from other non-personnel funds. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Gooch moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to approve amendment of \$3,250 of the approved 2008/09 State of Tennessee Adult Education grant from Account 599, Other Charges, to Account #524, Staff Development, as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The Committee was next advised cameras are to be installed in privately owned buses and the School Board will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep. Commissioner Williams advised drivers have concerns with the cameras being connected to the ignition and being on all the time even when the bus is not on School Board business. Mr. Sandvig advised it was part of the contract to have cameras on the buses. The Committee was advised the cameras tape to a unit in the bus and keep the recordings for a couple of weeks before taping over prior recordings.

The Committee was provided a budget amendment to reallocate \$237,985 from Contracts with Owners, 72710-315, to Transportation Equipment, 72710-729, for 128 three-camera systems with GPS for school buses based on Bid 1802. Following discussion,

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the amendment of \$237,985 from Contracts with Owners, 72710-315, to Transportation Equipment, 72710-729, for bus camera systems as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The Committee next advised of a referral from the Steering Committee to request use of vehicle registration as part of the enrollment verification process of any student in a school. The Committee advised they were not asking for wheel tax enforcement, but help from the School Board on those circumventing the system. Mr. Odom advised the School Board currently requires some type of utility bill and they deal with many students in a guardian situation. The Committee advised the County was approaching the group purposefully circumventing the system as complaints are received from parents witnessing out of county cars dropping off students. The intention is not to put more work on the School Board but if the School Board already requires proof of residency couldn't a vehicle registration be requested rather than a utility bill. Mr. Odom inquired as to the Wheel Tax Officer and was advised there is one Wheel Tax Officer and 42 schools. Commissioner Phillips inquired if this request would be an administrative nightmare and that is not the intent but just wanted to know if it could be done. The Committee discussed whether the Wheel Tax Officer can write tickets on school property or whether it has to be on a road. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to request the School Board to include the vehicle registration as part of the school eligibility process each year and if it cannot be done, advise why it cannot be done administratively.

This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Chairman Bullen next advised as in prior years there will be a joint meeting with the Budget Committee for presentation of the School Board budget on May 26 at the School Board offices. The Committee was advised there will be a vote held that night by the Health & Education Committee. The School Board was asked to provide a copy of the budget prior to the May 26 meeting so Commissioners would have time to review the same.

Commissioner W. Jordan next inquired where the two middle schools stood and if Health & Education Committee needed to discuss if it still endorsed the same. Mr. Odom advised engineering expects bids to be 20% less than projected due to the economy and companies wanting the work. The School Board is pre-qualifying bidders and have had interest from as far away as Texas. Mr. Odom advised the bids are to be opened March 3 and March 17.

Ms. Nolen advised as to interest rates a twenty year debt could be less than 4%.

Mayor Burgess advised although the County can save on capital and interest, the operating costs and total amount needed to be looked at closely as the County will not have the revenue stream to support without tax increases. Mayor Burgess advised although the schools may be built they need to be built with knowledge aforethought and if opened in 2010 it will be an election year and will require a tax increase. Chairman Bullen advised at the Budget Committee Commissioner Peay requested a spread sheet with additional information including construction costs, opening and operating costs and costs of delaying.

The Committee was advised after the bids come in the School Board has at least 30 days to do something but needed to act by May 1 to open in 2010.

Mayor Burgess advised the prediction is the economy will bottom out late this year before starting up.

Mr. Sandvig advised the system is still holding at 2.5% growth.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Bullen declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

BOB BULLEN, Chairman